IN THE CLAIMS:

1 – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method to identify, monitor and/or remove $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

(a) contacting the human blood with ligands specifically binding to the CD4 and CD25, and/or CTL-A4 entities on the T cells; and ~~, whereby $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells present in human blood are identified, monitored, and/or removed from the human blood~~

(b) identifying, monitoring, and/or removing said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from the human blood,

wherein no stimulation with cytokines or dendritic cells is performed between the steps.

13 – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said ligands specifically binding to the CD4 and CD25 and/or CTL-A4 entities on the T cells are anti-CD4 antibodies and/or anti-CD25 antibodies and/or anti-CTL-A4 antibodies.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, whereby said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells are removed from the human blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises the step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

(a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;

(b) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;

(c) being in an anergic state;

(d) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;

(e) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;

(f) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;

(g) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;

(h) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment;

(i) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD8^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment; and

(j) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of $CD4^+$ $CD25^-$ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said method comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN-γ.